Steve, Ed, Mayer
Hal, Harv.

1/18/67

Last night I had a long phone call from an irate "fan" in Baltimore. He is a salesman for Capitol Records, spends much time away from home, and couldn't call me earlier because of it (and that record sold even worse than we expected!) He tells me that Westinghouse and Metromedia in Boston got together on a nighttime "special" with Thompson on what is normally a daytime show, plugged thehhell of of it for a week to build an audience, and then aired him in snide attacks on all of us.

Now it happens that I have a rather decent audience in Baltimore. Throughout both shows, radio and TV, a number of people who had read my books and had heard me, phoned in with questions designed to show that in reality the performance of the FBI and Secret Service left much to be desired. Thompson was annoyed and defended them! He actually said or inferred that those things reflecting on the investigators were taken out of context by people like me, that to justify such criticism of the investigators I had to leave out the other side, the evidence to the contrary.

This is pretty open. I have written both stations requesting tapes of the shows and the opportunity for response at the same hours, with the same fanfare. I have a call in now to the TV station.

I keep hearing of his exposures on the major outlets throughout the country. He has been moving fast and working hard, always with the message of defense of the Commission, while always careful to point out minor error, and with the claim that his work is original-that he has added the vital new information needed. And whenever he can, he deprecates the rest of us, as I reported after hearing him on WCAU before his book was published.

So, if any of you have any tapes or quotations of him, I want very much to have them, so I can use them. And Steve, please, the Crane-Liebeler show. I want Liebeler's endorsement of his work, especially as "painless".

Incidently, he got heavy exposure in Washington. Someone did a lot of hard, expensive work there. He got on stations and programs that would never have any of us-like the Washington Post doing a half-hour special with him (I sent Ray a dub of the tape that is in some ways quite revealing).

But when Thompson comes out in open defense of the FBI, there is no doubt left in my mind. It confirms the analysis I gave you after reading the Saturday Evening Post contraction. He is a running dog for the government.